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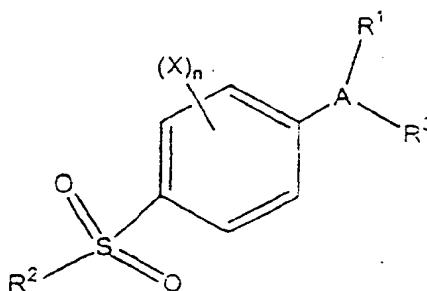
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(54) **Fluoro-substituted benzenesulfonyl compounds for the treatment of inflammation**

(57) Methods of treating cyclooxygenase-2 mediated disorders comprising administering to a subject a therapeutically effective amount of one or more fluoro-substituted benzenesulfonyl compounds corresponding to Formula I:



wherein A, X, n, R¹, R², and R³ are as described in the specification, and novel fluoro-substituted benzenesulfonyl compounds within Formula I.

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PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

which under Rule 45 of the European Patent Convention shall be considered, for the purposes of subsequent proceedings, as the European search report

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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
D, Y	EP 0 745 596 A (JAPAN TOBACCO INC., JAPAN) 4 December 1996 (1996-12-04)	1,17-31, 43-56, 94-97, 99, 103-107, 109, 113-120	C07D231/12 C07D401/04 C07D261/08 C07D413/04
	* ex. 6 * * page 26, line 40 - line 42; claims 1,8 * ---		
Y	US 5 932 598 A (GRANETO MATTHEW J ET AL) 3 August 1999 (1999-08-03)	1,17-31, 43-56, 94-97, 99, 103-107, 109, 113-120	
	* column 5, line 14 - line 20; claim 1 * ---		
A	EP 0 418 845 A (FUJISAWA PHARMACEUTICAL CO) 27 March 1991 (1991-03-27)	1,17-31, 94-97, 103-107, 113-120	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
	* claim 1 * ---		C07D
-/--			
INCOMPLETE SEARCH			
<p>The Search Division considers that the present application, or one or more of its claims, does/do not comply with the EPC to such an extent that a meaningful search into the state of the art cannot be carried out, or can only be carried out partially, for these claims.</p> <p>Claims searched completely :</p> <p>Claims searched incompletely :</p> <p>Claims not searched :</p> <p>Reason for the limitation of the search:</p> <p>see sheet C</p>			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
MUNICH		4 September 2002	Johnson, C
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
<p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone</p> <p>Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category</p> <p>A : technological background</p> <p>O : non-written disclosure</p> <p>P : intermediate document</p>		<p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention</p> <p>E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date</p> <p>D : document cited in the application</p> <p>L : document cited for other reasons</p> <p>& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>	

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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04-09-2002

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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82

European Patent
OfficeINCOMPLETE SEARCH
SHEET C

Application Number

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Although claims 104-120 are directed to a method of treatment of the human/animal body (Article 52(4) EPC), the search has been carried out and based on the alleged effects of the compound/composition.

Claim(s) searched incompletely:
1-120 (part)

Reason for the limitation of the search:

Present claims 1-120 relate to a compound defined by reference to a desirable characteristic or property, namely prodrugs. The claims cover all compounds having this characteristic or property, whereas the application provides support within the meaning of Article 84 EPC and/or disclosure within the meaning of Article 83 EPC for only a very limited number of such compounds. In the present case, the claims so lack support, and the application so lacks disclosure, that a meaningful search over the whole of the claimed scope is impossible. Independent of the above reasoning, the claims also lack clarity (Article 84 EPC). An attempt is made to define the compound by reference to a result to be achieved. Again, this lack of clarity in the present case is such as to render a meaningful search over the whole of the claimed scope impossible. Consequently, the search has been carried out for those parts of the claims which appear to be clear, supported and disclosed, namely those parts relating to the compounds as explicitly defined in the formulae and their acylated sulfonamide derivatives, as defined on p. 179 of the description.



European Patent
Office

PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 02 00 8273

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	
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Application Number

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CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):

☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet 8

☐ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.

☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.

☒ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:

1(part), 17-31, 43-56, 94-96(part), 97, 99, 103-106(part), 107, 109, 113-120(part)

☐ None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:



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LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B

Application Number
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The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. Claims: 1 (part), 17-31, 94-96 (part), 97, 103-106 (part),
107, 113-120 (part)

Compounds of formula II, their pharmaceutical compositions
and uses.

2. Claims: 1 (part), 32-42, 94-96 (part), 98, 103-106 (part),
108, 113-120 (part)

Compounds of formula III, their pharmaceutical compositions
and uses.

3. Claims: 1 (part), 43-56, 94-96 (part), 99, 103-106 (part),
109, 113-120 (part)

Compounds of formula IV, their pharmaceutical compositions
and uses.

4. Claims: 1 (part), 57-64, 94-96 (part), 100, 103-106 (part),
110, 113-120 (part)

Compounds of formula V, their pharmaceutical compositions
and uses.

5. Claims: 1 (part), 70-81, 94-96 (part), 101, 103-106 (part),
111, 113-120 (part)

Compounds of formula VI, their pharmaceutical compositions
and uses.

6. Claims: 1 (part), 82-93, 94-96 (part), 102, 103-106 (part),
112, 113-120 (part)

Compounds of formula VII, their pharmaceutical compositions
and uses.

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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